**Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University , Nanded**

# Synopsis

**Submitted Under The Faculty of Humanities For Ph.D. In The Subject of Public Administration**

## “Public Distribution System in Maharashtra” (Special Reference to Parbhani District)

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## Introduction

Public Distribution System (PDS) is a Poverty alleviation programme and contributes towards the social welfare of the people. Essential commodities like rice, wheat, sugar, kerosene and etc. are supplied to the people under the PDS at reasonable prices. PDS is a boon to the people living below the poverty line. PDS is the primary social welfare and anti poverty programme of the Government of India. PDS is considered as principal instrument in the hands of state Governments for providing safety net to the poor against the spiraling rise in prices of essential commodities. Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) has been initiated by the Government of India from the year 1992 in order to serve and provide essential commodities to the people living in remote, backward and hilly areas. Government introduced Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in the year 1997. Central Government and State Governments have been actively involved in steering the operations for of the success of the PDS. These food grains and partly procured from Food Corporation of India (FCI) which is a central body and partly contributed by the state from its own produce. It reaches the end-consumers through Fair Price Shop (FPS) spread across the India. This is the largest distribution network in the world operated with collaborative efforts central and State Governments in India. It is not possible to neglect the PDS in India, because majority of the Indian population are living in rural areas

and their standard of living is also poor and they can not to pay the prevailing market prices for the essential commodities.

Maharashtra Government is implementing the PDS as universal system for the cause of eradicating poverty and improving standard of living of the people living below the poverty line. Timely supply of essential commodities is the basic element for the success of the PDS. Infrastructure like, Fair Price Shops (FPS), godown facilities and employees are other requisites of the PDS.

**Public Distribution System in India**

Public Distribution System (PDS) is considered to be principal instrument in the hand of government for providing safety net to the poor and downtrodden. The PDS serves triple objectives namely protecting the poor, enhancing the nutritional status and generates a moderate influence on market prices. The focus and coverage of PDS have changed widely over the year. Initially during world war civilian consumption was restricted so as to divert food items to meet the food requirement of defense forces. Subsequently frequent occurrence of drought throughout the country made the planners to think on food shortages. In order to overcome this shortage ration system was came into existence. From the year 1992 revamped PDS was introduced in those areas where Drought Prone Area Programme and Dessert Development Programme were in operation. Under this system people were allowed to purchase essential items from the FPS at

relatively much lower subsidized rates. After, the Chief Ministers Conference held in July 1996, a revised scheme known as Targeted PDS was introduced countrywide with a network of 4.74 Lakhs FPS. Under this system two-tier subsidized pricing system by classifying the cardholders is followed. Cardholders are classified as Above Poverty Line (APL) and Below Poverty Line (BPL) .

The BPL families a are entitled to receive the essential commodities at a price, which is very closer to the economic cost. BPL families are identified based on methodology given by Lakdawala Expert Group on estimates of poverty.

**Goals of the PDS system**

The goal of PDS does not restrict itself with the distribution of rationed articles. Making available adequate quantities of essential articles at all times , in rules places accessible to all, at prices affordable to all and protection of the weaker section of the population from the vicious spiral of rising prices is the broad spectrum of PDS. More specifically, the goals of PDS are:

- Make goods available to consumers, especially the disadvantaged / vulnerable sections of society at fair prices.
- Rectify the existing imbalances between the supply and demand for consumer goods, check and prevent hoarding and black marketing in essential commodities.
- Ensure Social justice in distribution of basic necessities of life.

- Even out fluctuations in prices and availability of mass consumption goods; and
- Support poverty alleviation programmes, Particularly, rural employment programmes, (SGRY / SGSY/ IRDP / Mid day meals, ICDS, DWCRA, SHGs and Food for work and Educational Feeding Programmes.)

**Effectiveness of Public Distribution System**

Public Distribution System has been in existence in India since the inter-war period. It had its origin with focus on distribution of food grains in urban scarcity areas when the country passed through critical food shortages. Now PDS is evolved as the important poverty alleviation programme in India. This is perhaps the largest distribution network of its kind in the world. Further the focuses of PDS are also changes over the years form merely distribution of food grains to serving as safety net to the poor and the downtrodden.

However very often PDS is criticized for its ineffectiveness and inefficiency in achieving its objectives. Poor quality of goods supplied, under weight, leakage of PDS articles to open market, no availability of commodities easily etc. Hence, it becomes necessary to assess the effectiveness of PDS from academic perspective.

## About Research Area

Parbhani , earlier also known as “Prabahvati Nagar”, is one of the Eight districts in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra State. This entire Marathwada region, was a part of the erstwhile Nizam State; later a part of Hyderabad state; after reorganization of states in 1956 it became a part of the then Bombay State, and from 1960 onwards it is part of the present Maharashtra State. Parbhani district lies between 18.45 and 20.10 North Latitudes and 76.13 and 77.39. East Longitude. The district is bounded on the North by Hingoli District. On the East by Nanded district, on the South by Latur and on the West by Beed and Jalna districts. The state capital of Mumbai is to the West. Parbhani district covers an area of about 6250.58Km .The district is divided into 9 administrative sub-units (Tehsils) Namely, Parbhani, Gangakhed, Sonpeth, Pathri, Manwath, Palam, Selu, Jintur and Purna. According to the 2011 census Parbhani district has a population of 1,835,982. The distract has population de0nsity of 295 inhabitants per square kilometer. Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 20.18%. Parbhani has a sex ratio of 940 females for every 1000 males, and literacy rate of 75.22%. Ministry of Minority Affairs declared Parbhani as Minority Concentration District as Muslims makes 15.97% of the population.

## Statement of the Problem

Number of research studies by individuals, institutions and government agencies have been conducted on the subject PDS. The planning Commission in the "Mid-term appraisal of Ninth five year plan (1997-2002) has also pointed out various areas covered by researchers on PDS. The planning commission's report says that ' with a network of more than 4,00,000 FPS, the PDS in India are perhaps the largest distribution machinery of its type in the world. PDS is said to distribute each year commodities worth Rs. 15,000 crore to about 16 crore families. The huge network can play a more meaningful role if only the system able to translate into micro level and macro level self-sufficiency by ensuring availability of food grains for the poor households. The above statement by the planning commission has lot of meanings and expenses a desire to know the utility and implementation process of PDS scheme. Current research is undertaken to answer some of questions raised on PDS, such as:-

1. Its failure (PDS) to serve the population below poverty line.
2. Its urban bias and neglect of rural areas.
3. Lack of transparent and accountable arrangements for delivery.
4. Diversion of PDS commodities to the open market.

## Objective of the Research

The Objective of the present research are:

1) To study the socio-economic conditions of rural and urban population brought under PDS.

2) To discuss the role of administrative mechanism of Public Distribution System.
3) To study the problems related in the implementations of the PDS.
4) To study the benefits derived out of PDS.
5) To offer suggestions to improve the working of PDS.

## Hypothesis of the Research

The hypothesis to be tested in this research are:

1) People below poverty line (BPL) do not have adequate income to purchase PDS goods.
2) Measures and weights are not accurate in PDS inputs.
3) Very old stocks are allowed for PDS.
4) Monitoring of the scheme is ineffective.
5) PDS has created overall benefits to poor people.

## Research Methodology

Present research is empirical in nature and will be studied by using primary and secondary data. In primary resources, reports of planning commission, Central Government and Maharashtra Government will be studied. In secondary resources literature, reference books, magazines, Newspapers relating to the subject will be studied. Present research will be done by scientific method.

**Limitations** of **the Research**

1) Present research will be limited to Parbhani District only.
2) The period for research will be of five years from 2013 to 2018.
3) The research will be studied the distribution of Wheat, Sugar and Rice only under PDS.
4) This research pertains to Maharashtra state and hence its finding may not be applicable to other states.

## Chapter Scheme

The research has five chapters as noted below.

1) Introduction of Public Distribution System.
2) Supply Department : Administrative Composition and Work Procedure
3) Supply Department in Parbhani District: Comparative Economic and Social Analysis.
4) Supply Department : The approach of Politicians, Bureaucrats, Beneficiaries and Non-Beneficiaries.
5) Major findings, Conclusion and suggestions of the research.

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